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## Comments on **Advisory Opinion on Changes in Service Standards Docket N2021-01**

I oppose these changes.

The proposed change will reduce service to rural areas of the country, and in some cases, it may cause the death of people who do not receive medications available to them only through mail order promptly. (Some insurance plans and discount plans require mail-order delivery, not pickup in a drug store.)

Also, these changes will reduce the speed of delivery of first-class mail in general, which will affect many people. In some cases will cause individuals to pay penalties for late delivery of payments on credit cards, loans, etc. The people who can least afford these late charges will be the ones most affected by these changes.

The USPS is a quasi-governmental agency. It must keep the needs of its patrons front and foremost in making decisions that affect levels of service.

I do not condone privatizing mail delivery, and I do not like closing rural post offices. These also serve functions besides mail pick up and delivery. (Processing passports, purchasing money orders, and a place for social interaction helps to preserve the mental health of our population, thereby minimizing the cost of government programs such as Social Security Disability, which can result from extreme cases of isolation. Closing post offices causes isolation for those who gather at post offices. The loss of government employees reduces the loneliness of USPS patrons with a nod, welcome, and smile.

It could be argued in court that making these changes will reduce the public's quality of service and increase USPS costs in the long run. Long-run costs result because more human interaction is required when sorting machines are retired.

Lawsuits may state that these changes are a ploy to increase the profitability of private-sector companies. Defending against lawsuits like this is a waste of taxpayer funds.

Do not pass these changes.

Alan H. Jordan /s  
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